

The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2799.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

Banks.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK.

1.—THE BUSINESS of the above BANK will be conducted by the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, on their premises in Hongkong, Business Hours on WEEK-DAYS, 10 to 1; SATURDAYS, 10 to 1. 2.—SUMS LESS THAN \$1, or MORE THAN \$250 at one time will not be received. No Depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year. 3.—DEPOSITORS in the SAVINGS BANK, having \$100, or more, at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent. per annum interest. 4.—INTEREST at the rate of 3½ per annum will be allowed to Depositors on their daily balances. 5.—EACH DEPOSITOR will be supplied gratis with a PASS-BOOK, which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their PASS-BOOKS, but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January and beginning of July. 6.—CORRESPONDENCE as to the Business of the Bank, if marked ON HONGKONG SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS, will be forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China. 7.—WITHDRAWALS may be made demand, but the personal attendance of the Depositor or his duly appointed Agent, and the production of his PASS-BOOK, are necessary. FOR THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION, F. DE BOVIS, Acting Chief Manager, Hongkong, 1st January, 1891.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL £2,000,000.
PAID-UP CAPITAL £580,000.

LONDON : Head Office, 40, Threadneedle Street, West End Office, 25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT, Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE, Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and Agency Business generally, on terms to be had on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS : Fixed for 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum. 6. " 4 " " 3 " 3 " ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS a per Cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance. E. W. RUTTER, Manager.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL \$9,266,677.07
RESERVE FUND 6,866,596.31
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PROPRIETORS 9,266,677.07

COURT OF DIRECTORS :—
Chairman—J. S. MOSES, Esq.
Deputy Chairman—S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
H. L. DALRYMPLE, Esq. Hon. J. J. KEWICK.
T. E. DAVIS, Esq. A. McCOWAGHIE, Esq.
W. H. FORBES, Esq. L. PORSCHECKER, Esq.
C. J. HOLIDAY, Esq. D. R. SASOON, Esq.
H. HOPKINS, Esq.

ACTING CHIEF MANAGER,
HONGKONG—F. DE BOVIS, Esq.
MANAGER,
SHANGHAI—JOHN WALTER, Esq.
LONDON BANKERS—LONDON AND
COUNTY BANK.

HONGKONG—INTEREST ALLOWED.
ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNT at the rate of a per cent. per Annum on the daily balance.

ON FIXED DEPOSITS :—
For 3 months, 3 per Cent. per Annum.
For 6 months, 4 per Cent. per Annum.
For 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum.
LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.

CREDITS granted on approved Securities, and every description of BANKING and EXCHANGE business transacted.
DRAFTS granted on London, and the chief commercial places in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

F. DE BOVIS,
Acting Chief Manager,
Hongkong, 28th February, 1891.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT
AND AGENCY COMPANY, LIMITED.
SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL \$5,000,000.
PAID UP CAPITAL 2,500,000.
RESERVE FUND 1,250,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Hon. J. K. KESWICK,
Chairman,
Hon. C. P. CHATER,
Managing Director,
Vice-Chairman,
S. C. MICHAELSEN, Esq.
J. S. MOSES, Esq.
G. E. NOBLE, Esq.
POON FONG, Esq.
D. R. SASOON, Esq.

BANKERS.
THE HONGKONG & SHANGHAI
BANKING CORPORATION.

MONEY advanced on Mortgage, on Land, and Buildings.
Properties Managed and sold.
Estates Managed and all kinds of Agency and Commission business relating to Land, etc., conducted.

Full particulars can be obtained at the Company's Offices, No. 5, Queen's Road Central, Kowloon.

A. SHELLTON HOOVER,
Secretary,
Victoria Building,
Hongkong, 2nd May, 1891.

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.

CHEMISTS BY APPOINTMENT.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

(Established A.D. 1841).

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS ANALYTICAL,

FAMILY, DISPENSING, and GENERAL CHEMISTS.

PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE PROPRIETORS.

SEEDSMEN.

WINE and SPIRIT MERCHANTS,

CIGAR IMPORTERS, &c., &c.

Manufacturers of

AERATED WATERS

By Steam Machinery.

This being THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY of our Firm, and THE JUBILEE YEAR of the Colony, THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY having been Established A.D. 1841," we take the opportunity

of thanking our friends for their support during the last 50 years, and tender them the assurance of our best services in the future as in the past.

We shall continue to import DRUGS, CHEMICALS, and GOODS of every kind, of the BEST QUALITY ONLY as heretofore, at prices that will be found to compare favourably with local rates, and in many instances with those ruling at home.

BRANCH ESTABLISHMENTS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE SHANGHAI PHARMACY, SHANGHAI,

24, Nankin Road.

BOTICA INGLEZA, MANILA,

Escolta, 14.

THE CANTON DISPENSARY, CANTON,

Canal Road.

THE DISPENSARY, FOOCHOW,

The Dispensary, HANKOW,

THE DISPENSARY, TIENSIN,

LONDON OFFICE,

106, Fenchurch Street, E.C.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,

21st January, 1891.

RULES

Made by the Governor in Council, under Section 8 of Ordinance No. 19 of 1888. (The Stamp Ordinance), this 14th day of March, 1891.

1. POSTAGE STAMPS of the value of two cents may be used in lieu of revenue stamp of the same value.

2. On and after the 1st day of July, 1891, the value of the stamp required for receipts, etc., under Item No. 12 of the Schedule to Ordinance No. 16 of 1886, shall be two cents instead of three cents as at present.

A. M. THOMSON,

Acting Clerk of Councils,

Council Chamber,

Hongkong, 20th March, 1891.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

INFORMATION has been received from the Military Authorities that ARTILLERY PRACTICE will take place from Kowloon East Battery, in South-Easterly and Westerly directions on the 2nd instant, and from the Batteries at Stone, Cutters' Island, in a South-Western direction on the 24th, 25th and 26th instant, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. All Ships, Tugs and other Vessels are cautioned to keep clear of the range.

By Command,

W. M. DEANE,

Acting Colonial Secretary,

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Hongkong, 19th March, 1891.

WANTED.

A CLERK, with a good knowledge of Book-KEEPING.

Apply with references to

A. B. C.,

c/o Hongkong Telegraph Office,

Hongkong, 20th March, 1891.

CUSTOMS NOTIFICATION,

No. 38.

ON FRIDAY next, the 27th instant, that being GOOD FRIDAY, this Office will be CLOSED to the transaction of all Public Business, but Work at the Opium Hulk and Stables will proceed as usual.

J. McLEAVY BROWN,

Commissioner of Customs

for Kowloon & District,

Canton House,

Hongkong, 20th March, 1891.

Intimations.

COLONIAL HOUSE,

HONGKONG Trading Company LIMITED.

4, QUEEN'S ROAD.

COMPLETE HOUSE FURNISHERS.

UPHOLSTERERS, POLISHERS,
BEDDING MANUFACTURERS, &c.
ESTIMATES SUBMITTED.

Hongkong, 20th March, 1891.

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W. POWELL & CO.

JUST RECEIVED A NEW SHIPMENT OF

CROCKER Y.

DINNER SERVICES, BEDROOM TOILET SETS, TEA SETS, GLASS WARE, &c., &c.

W. POWELL & CO.

Hongkong, 14th March, 1891.

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PIANOS
FOR
SALE.

A. HAHN, PIANOS
ON
HIRE.

PIANO-TUNER AND REPAIRER.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS,
LEATHER GOODS,
FANCY
STATIONERY,
TOYS,
&c.,

LADIES' ROBES AND JERSEYS,
STOCKINGS,
CHILDREN'S DRESSES,
" HATS AND CAPS,
SHOES,
&c.,

No. 2, PEDDER'S STREET.

Hongkong, 12th January, 1891.

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LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.
MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

PIANOS

FOR SALE from \$150 in Solid Cases, Iron Frames, etc., suitable for this Climate.

P. I. A. N. O. S.

FOR HIRE from \$10 per Month. Pianos on the Monthly Payment System from \$15 per Month.

Pianos Tuned. Pianos Repaired.

A large selection of Violins, Tenors, Basses, Guitars, Mandolins, Zithers, Cornets, Saxhorns, Baritones, Euphoniums, Trombones, Clarines, Oboes, Flutes, Piccolos, Flies, and Flageolets. Complete equipment for Brass and String Bands. Strings and Pittings for all Musical Instruments. Well Selected Stock of Music.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 28th February, 1891.

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CRUICKSHANK & CO., LTD.,
FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS,
OPPOSITE HONGKONG HOTEL.

ALWAYS in stock our usual well-known Brand's of WINES and SPIRITS, &c.

PURE PHOTOGRAPHIC CHEMICALS; SCHERING'S CELLOIDIN

In a Gelinatious form, is not dangerous and is inexpensive, dissolves quite bright, without any sediment, in Ether, and Alcohol, and gives a much more uniform result than ordinary Gun Cotton.

Our remaining stock of CHRISTMAS SWEETS, CHOCOLATES, SHORT BREAD, &c.

Hongkong, 31st January, 1891.

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W. BREWER,
UNDER HONGKONG HOTEL

Lancaster's Photo Cameras &, and full plate.

NEW BOOKS.

A Pica for Liberty, by Herbert Spencer. Building and Machine Draughtsmen. Prospector's Handbook. Hints to Travellers, by Geographical Socy. Austin's Metallurgy. Cole's Practical Geology. Ciod's History of Creation. Pitman's Shorthand Books.

Handsome Birthday Cards in boxes.

Water Colour Boxes fitted, in great variety.

New stock of Oil Colours.

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liability. The only sums that Mr. Fraser-Smith had paid, leaving out of course what was paid after the issue of the writ, were the two sums of \$100 and \$500. Minshinnett admitted receiving these two sums and allowance had been made for them. On the 20th September Webber had paid a sum of \$600 and it had been endeavoured to make out that this sum was paid on behalf of this particular transaction of \$6,500. If there had been no other transactions between Webber and Minshinnett and Webber had paid this \$600 to him, the jury would be perfectly justified in coming to the conclusion that it was paid on behalf of this transaction. But the evidence was that there were other transactions between Webber and Minshinnett pending at that time, and that there were other moneys due and that this \$600 was paid on their account. It is the fact therefore that this money happened to be paid on a certain date carried the case no further. It was absurd to argue, as had been contended, that Mr. Webber was Mr. Minshinnett's agent in the matter, because it was clearly shown that Mr. Webber was a principal in the matter. Mr. Fraser-Smith and Mr. Webber were both principals and both were individually liable for this amount, and he therefore asked the jury for a verdict for the full amount claimed.

His lordship, in summing up, said the first point to which he would call the attention of the jury was the \$700 said to have been paid by Leung Ayon for Webber on behalf of this promissory note. Whatever Ayon had told Mr. Fraser-Smith in Canton he had stated in the witness box that he had not paid the sum for Mr. Webber. They could not tell what reason Ayon had for making the statement he probably had done to Mr. Fraser-Smith, but he had now sworn that it was not correct and that he was bound to it referred to another promissory note for \$700 which he and Mr. Webber owed. Probably when he made that statement to Mr. Fraser-Smith there might have been some misunderstanding as to which note was being alluded to. In point of law there could be no doubt that in this joint note either man was liable for the whole amount. It might be very hard if such agreement, as was put forward, existed, that one man was to be responsible for \$5,000 and the other for \$1,500, but there was no doubt that plaintiff looked to the joint note as his security and as that instrument he was entitled to recover the full amount. The only observation he (his lordship) could make was that it was extraordinary if this agreement was made, as was stated, at the same time as the promissory note and in the presence of the plaintiff that they should have gone to the trouble of making two documents. If the plaintiff agreed to this document why should he insist on the joint note? He might just as well have taken two promissory notes and well held each party liable for the different amounts. That was the only observation to be made on that point, with the exception of pointing out that it had been decided by the plaintiff that he had any knowledge of such agreement. With regard to the \$600 which it was stated had been paid on behalf of this promissory note, there was the statement in Mr. Webber's diary that on the same date he had received \$600 from the defendant and had paid \$600 to the plaintiff, but there was no legal evidence to show that this was in respect of this sum of \$6,500. The plaintiff explained the payment of this other \$600 by saying that it was interest paid to him by Webber on another promissory note of \$3,000. That was his explanation, he produced no proofs, he stated he kept none and it was for the jury to say whether they accepted this explanation. There was no legal evidence with regard to the other payments by Mr. Webber and the only point seemed to be with regard to this \$600. He must leave it to the jury to say whether they believed the plaintiff as regards this, or whether they thought he was entitled to the full amount of \$3,000.

This jury then retired and after a quarter of an hour's consideration returned a verdict for the plaintiff for the full amount, by a majority of five to two.

Mr. Francis asked for judgment for \$1,300 with interest from the date of issue of writ, and costs.

Mr. Fraser-Smith—I ask your lordship to stay execution for a month. I will pay the amount of judgment and costs into Court, but I ask for a stay of execution in order that I may take the necessary steps for a new trial. I believe Mr. Webber will be here about the beginning of next month.

His lordship—On what grounds do you want a new trial?

Mr. Fraser-Smith—On the ground that substantial evidence as to the payment of these sums will be forthcoming.

His lordship said he saw no reason to accede to the application, and entered an order for judgment with costs.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon in the City Hall, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Committee and the Secretary's account for the year ending 31st December, 1890. There were present:—Mr. E. Mackintosh (Chairman), Hon. J. J. Keswick (Vice-Chairman), Hon. P. Ryrie, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. W. H. Forbes, R. M. Gray, H. Hoppius, St. C. Michaelson (Committee), G. de Champeaux, G. Sharp, C. A. Tomes, G. Wiesler, L. Poenschecker, H. W. Ditch and F. Henderson (Secretary).

The minutes of the last annual meeting, and of the special meeting held for the election of a member of the Legislative Council, were taken and read duly confirmed.

The election as members of the Chamber of Messrs. The Trust and Loan Company of China, Japan and the Straits, Limited; Chater & Co., Vernon, W. H. Young, E. & S. Coxon, Cowasjee Pallonjee & Co., Ming Kee Hong, Wy Seng Hong, Yuen Fat Hong, Cohen & Goode, Coop & Levy, H. Z. Judd, G. H. Poole, E. C. Ray, T. J. Rose, and G. D. Scott, was confirmed.

The Chairman—Gentlemen, we have met to-day to receive the report of your Committee for the last twelve months. It is a document that does not possess many features of very great interest.

Still, there are some subjects which I think merit the attention at your hands. The first subject is the convention between the Chinese Government and the Telegraph Companies. This Convention, I am happy to say, is, I think, not only scented, but killed. We see from the public prints that it is contemplated that a line of cable should be laid between America and Japan via Honolulu. This will help, I hope, to cheapen the rates that are charged for telegraphic messages, but it hardly think we shall be an economical platform as regards cost of messages until we have the land lines between China and Europe. With these I think we should be fairly safe, in consequence of the competition we might expect, and also owing to land lines being less expensive and less costly to keep up. The next subject we deal with in our report is the Additional Articles in the Chefoo Convention and the opening of Chungking. The *Marco Polo*, as I may call it, has developed from this Convention a matter for the deepest regret. I think, however, it is no use to blame Her Britannic Majesty's Minister for the want of success, for no doubt he has instructions from the home Government and has to follow them. Still, after the privilege of open trade to Chaukiang had been granted to

seems very regrettable that it should be whittled down to trade in native boats, or if in foreign-owned boats, still boats of native pattern. I do not think the outcome of their diplomacy redounds at all to the credit of the British Government. My own opinion is that the special privileges we are supposed to have acquired by this Convention will amount to very little, and that they will not tend much to develop the trade of that particular district, of which we are so hopeful. It also appears to me that the Imperial Government of China have little ability to control Chinese officials at a distance from Peking, following to obstacles apparently thrown in the way by these native authorities. A distance, the possibility of trade on the Upper Yangtze has been destroyed. It strikes me, however, that if the British Government had shown greater firmness in this matter, with the Central Authorities we should have obtained the rights and concessions that were originally granted by the Chefoo Convention. I must say I feel strongly in the matter, and I think you will agree with me that the British trade of China was not built up by such a vacillating and weak policy as has been displayed in this instance. However, the matter is finished and we must accept the inevitable. The next point the Committee refer to in the report is the Ordinance to amend the law relating to the registration of trade marks and the Ordinance relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise. Notwithstanding the recommendation of your Committee the Government thought fit to pass a law relating to fraudulent marks on merchandise, although they have no machinery to carry out this particular law; they have no power whatever to enforce it, and it appears to me a considerable waste of energy to encumber the Statute Book of this colony with laws that are inoperative. The next subject is the emigration of coolies from Swatow to British North Borneo. This paragraph touches an explanation due to the Consul at Swatow. In the correspondence published with the last report we touched on this subject, and what was said appears to have given the Consul a certain amount of umbrage, or rather he took exception to it. I may say that notwithstanding this so-called free emigration from Swatow not a single native can be despatched to British North Borneo under the British flag, though the Dutch Government have secured the privilege, presumably under some agreement with China, for regular departures to take place from Swatow to Sumatra. One would think that under the "favoured nation" clause Great Britain was entitled to the same privilege, but apparently it is not given; the officials appear to be unable to obtain any such facilities for British North Borneo, though the country is clamouring for this particular class of labour; and I think the Government of British North Borneo would gladly accept any of the restrictions or regulations that have been applied in the case of the emigration to Sumatra in order to obtain similar privileges. We now come to the Lighthouse Board: This is a subject that has engaged the attention of your Committee for some time and has been a matter of representation to several successive Governors. And now I must trouble you with some statistics that will present the matter in a practical form. From returns furnished by the Government we find that from the 1st January last year to the 31st March, a period of three months, light dues were collected to the amount of \$8,119.99. On the 1st April the dues were increased on account of the Gap Rock Light, and from the 1st April to the 30th November the dues collected amounted to \$6,17,64, making a total of \$6,237.63 for eleven months. There is one month more wanted to complete the year, which may be estimated at \$7,000, so that in round numbers we may say the total collection of light dues for the year amounted to \$71,000. On a similar basis we may take it that each twelve months that these increased dues are in force a revenue of \$8,000 will be collected, so that at the end of \$1,500, and including last year, the total receipts will amount to about \$24,000. That is in three years. Now, if we refer to another report, also furnished by the Government, we find that the cost of the up-keep of the present lighthouses is about \$6,600 a year. For three years that would make a disbursement of \$19,800. I do not suppose the Gap Rock light-house will be finished and in working order until February or March next. If we add to that the expenditure for the up-keep of the Gap Rock Light, say \$4,200, which should be ample, and add further the capital cost of that light, which is not stated, but put it at \$160,000; and add further the cost of the cable which we recommend, say \$70,000; and we have a total disbursement of \$244,000. The whole of that will be recouped to the Government by the additional levy at the end of February or March, 1893. I think I need hardly point out that the success, prosperity, and well-being of this colony depends solely upon its shipping; in fact, it is life-blood. Our landed property, our revenues from rent, and everything else is subservient to the shipping. Our very hopes of becoming a manufacturing centre in the future depend upon our shipping. Each vessel that passes through this harbour adds to the income of the commercial community of this place to an extent that would hardly be credited by a casual observer. I maintain, therefore, that it is the first duty of every colonist to attract as far as he possibly can, and not repel, the shipping of this colony. If possible we should do away with all official charges of every kind, not only light dues, but dues of every kind, and make the place so that it should be widely known throughout the world as absolutely free (applause). Shipping then would see this was a useful centre, when we gave all these facilities; and it would increase beyond what it now is. Our contemplated manufacturing industries would benefit by our capacity to receive raw products and ship the manufactured article to every part in the world at cheap rates. The amount received from the levy of these light dues is ear-marked as distinctly as any fund can be. The dues are levied for a specific purpose; to collect more than is absolutely necessary for the capital cost of these lighthouses and for their upkeep is distinctly bad. It is not ordinary revenue. At home, I think I am right in stating, they have endeavoured as far as they possibly can to assimilate the income to the expenditure. In fact I believe that every year an independent Board makes a calculation of what the probable income will be, based on the previous year's receipts, and if the receipts exceed the expenditure a reduction is made, so as to bring about equilibrium. And I have seen it stated that there is a strong movement at home to abolish the collection of light dues altogether and throw the cost of maintaining the lights on the imperial revenue of Great Britain. So we see what the feeling at home is on this subject.

Mr. Ryrie—In America I believe there are no light dues.

The Chairman—That I don't know. Perhaps Mr. Forbes can tell us.

Mr. Forbes—I don't know.

The Chairman—Well, what have we done?

We have levied these dues, and the amount collected from 1875 to 1880 has been not only sufficient to extinguish the capital cost but we have piled up a fund which, if invested, would be sufficient to pay for the upkeep of all the light-houses in perpetuity. This fund, I am sorry to say, has been merged in the general revenue of the colony, so that it is lost to the community, lost in the sense that it cannot now be used to grant to the shipping these facilities for which I strenuously contend. His Excellency the Governor stated that it should be private but to him

wherein a Lighthouse Board could do better than the Government. It is here that the Government has done ill. A Board such as your committee propose would have brought forcibly to the notice of the Government the diversion of the fund that has been going on for the past sixteen years; they would, more persistently than has been done in the past, have shown the wisdom of this proceeding; they would have impressed on each successive Governor that the original levy was made on the distinct understanding that when the original cost of the lighthouses was recouped the dues were to be reduced or were to cease. Recently, on the imposition of the Gap Rock light dues, the question was again raised, and his Excellency himself recognised the justice of a reduction in the amount as soon as the lighthouse was paid for. Will his successor recognise it? At whose suggestion were these lighthouses built? At the suggestion of the Government, but that of the commercial community.

Mr. Ryrie—The Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman—Yes, the commercial community represented by the Chamber of Commerce. The Government if left to itself would have done nothing. Surely the presence of the unofficial members of the Legislative Council as advisers to his Excellency is a sufficient parallel for the necessity of an Advisory Board to advise him on this subject; and I hope we shall see a further development from this Board, and that it will take the shape of a Harbour Board also. Of course we cannot find any fault with the officials. I have not found any fault with them. How can they be expected to know accurately the wants of the Colony? I have dealt with this subject at some length and I hope the new committee will take it up, as I consider it is one of the first importance to the Colony. The next question mentioned in the report is that of direct cable communication with Gap Rock. I think it goes without saying that when we get this valuable lighthouse it will be absolutely necessary and essential that we should have direct communication with it. The survey of the coast of China—This, I think, we may consider is rather an unsatisfactory state. We appear to go to its start. At one time the Navy gave us vessels, at another time they take them away, just as seems to suit them, but I think the community would be glad to see a continuous survey until the survey of the coast was complete. The Pinnacle Rock Fund follows the question we have just spoken on. This fund, which is a valuable one, I think, for helping and assisting the survey, has not been touched upon for want of any vessels to carry out the survey. With regard to local weather signals, we have endeavoured, as you will see, to make them more suitable to the colony, and by the courtesy of Commodore Church we have been enabled to obtain certain privileges by which warnings are in future to be hoisted on the *Victor Emanuel*. The reduction of postal rates to Europe—It appears this colony will have to stand the loss, if there should be one, consequent on the reduction of postal rates. We tried to see, as far as we could, on whom the loss should fall, but in the absence of any accounts that are of any value we were unable to arrive at any distinct conclusion, but in our reply to the Government it was distinctly pointed out that the Continental countries through which the letters pass should bear the *quotas*; but no doubt you will have seen, as I have seen, that there is a rumour that the post office will be responsible for the loss. The continental countries have declined to give up one single farthing of what is paid them for the privilege of passing through their countries. The action taken by the Government in this matter, I think, is rather a leap in the dark. It appears to have been forced on them by the home Government in such a way that they had to come to some agreement rapidly. This seems, rather regrettably, for if more time had been allowed we should have been able to discuss the matter thoroughly and have seen, as regards the revenue of this colony, where the loss should fall. As a matter of benefit for the commerce of this colony I think there is no doubt the more we reduce postage the better. I now come to the "Sunday labour question" in the harbour of Hongkong. I think there is very little to add on this subject; in fact it has been threshed thredbare. The opinions of the Committee, and I think of the members, of this Chamber are well known; at least, when I say all the members, I mean we took upon ourselves to consult with those members directly interested to ascertain their views, and they assented to the position your committee took up. Personally, I may say that that interview we had with a delegation from the Mercantile Marine Officers' Association my firm instructed the captain of the regular coasting steamers that if at any time any of their officers should apply to be relieved from the supervision of cargo on Sunday in this harbour their application was to be granted at once, to be freely accorded, and if the owners of the other lines are so inclined, and if the officers of the other lines are so inclined, to do the same. We have had a great deal of trouble with the shipping, and the right outcome of this is to have the legitimate, and the right outcome of our doing. I hope and trust the young men of Hongkong will learn a lesson from the present state of things to avoid that which has been the cause. I have seen these things again and again since 1884, when banks were bankrupted in England by the railway mania; I have seen these manias in India and here in Hongkong repeatedly, and I think nothing could be more astonishing than the protracted period during which this gambling was sustained. It lasted for fully three years. I think we must not be astonished at the present state of things. But I for one do not doubt the future of Hongkong by any means. I believe the trade of the place exists as it has done from the beginning, and it is bound to increase. Our steamer lines are constantly increasing, and I look forward with confidence to a large increase in the number of the population. In Hongkong the officers seldom have a chance of being called upon to work on Sunday, while at home the stationary character of the employe gives us a great deal of time. I would remind those who are agitating the question that the men who work on Sunday do not work every Sunday. They are not residents, and it may and does happen that numbers of them, a large percentage, of those who pass through this port are not called up to work on a single Sunday throughout the year; in fact I doubt if the number of those officers who do work on Sundays in Hongkong greatly exceeds, if it exceeds at all, the number of those who are compelled to do so at home on Sunday. The shipping then would see this was a useful centre, when we gave all these facilities; and it would increase beyond what it now is. Our contemplated manufacturing industries would benefit by our capacity to receive raw products and ship the manufactured article to every part in the world at cheap rates. The amount received from the levy of these light dues is ear-marked as distinctly as any fund can be. The dues are levied for a specific purpose; to collect more than is absolutely necessary for the capital cost of these lighthouses and for their upkeep is distinctly bad. It is not ordinary revenue. At home, I think I am right in stating, they have endeavoured as far as they possibly can to assimilate the income to the expenditure. In fact I believe that every year an independent Board makes a calculation of what the probable income will be, based on the previous year's receipts, and if the receipts exceed the expenditure a reduction is made, so as to bring about equilibrium. And I have seen it stated that there is a strong movement at home to abolish the collection of light dues altogether and throw the cost of maintaining the lights on the imperial revenue of Great Britain. So we see what the feeling at home is on this subject.

Mr. Ryrie—In America I believe there are no light dues.

The Chairman—That I don't know.

Mr. Forbes—I don't know.

The Chairman—Well, what have we done?

We have levied these dues, and the amount collected from 1875 to 1880 has been not only sufficient to extinguish the capital cost but we have

placed up a fund which, if invested, would be sufficient to pay for the upkeep of all the light-houses in perpetuity. This fund, I am sorry to say, has been merged in the general revenue of the colony, so that it is lost to the community, lost in the sense that it cannot now be used to grant to the shipping these facilities for which I strenuously contend. His Excellency the Governor stated that it should be private but to him

Chinese authorities and possibly cause them to be more lethargic in their action when we place any measure before them required for the suppression of piracy in their waters. I may say precautions taken by shipowners are all very well up to a certain point, but there are limits to such precautions, and when you get beyond these limits you cannot depend upon any effective remedy being applied by the shipowner. I don't know whether it is the custom on these occasions, but perhaps I may be allowed to say a few words on what I may call the legitimate trade of this Colony for the past year. From the native point of view it has been exceedingly bad. They have suffered a bad harvest; their tea and silk industries also have not paid. The tea trade appears likely to become a thing of the past. Unless some remedy be applied by the Imperial Government of China to stop the decay that is going on the tea trade appears to me almost a hopeless institution. There is only one remedy, and that is the abolition of the *taihui*. If that course were adopted by the Government of China no doubt we should act the tea trade revive, for although there is no doubt a certain fashion in tea drinking at home, still the main question that underlies the whole matter is the question of cost. If we cannot lay down tea at a price equal to those of the free countries of Ceylon and India we may as well shut up. With regard to foreigners, trade, I am afraid, has partaken very much of the nature of gambling. The unprecedented and alarming fluctuations of exchange have upset the calculations of the most far-sighted, and I think neither foreigners nor Chinese would care to see a repetition of 1889. I think it would be well for us also to avoid such inflation as we have seen, inflation of ideas I may say. When we take stock of our status and prospects we are apt during each sanguine period to mistake the shadow for the substance, which is not only misleading to those who listen but hurtful to ourselves, if for taken at our word the consequences are serious. Better, therefore, for us, not to brag but take the measure of our state and those questionable adjuncts which really add nothing to our commercial prosperity. Gentlemen, that is all I have to say except that the accounts appear to be satisfactory and, call for no remark. I will now move the adoption of the report and accounts and will ask one of you to second it, but before putting it to the meeting I will be glad to hear any remarks you may have to make.

Mr. Ryrie—I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the Report and Accounts.

Mr. Keswick—Gentlemen, before the motion is submitted to the meeting I should like to express my appreciation of the very interesting remarks made by the Chairman on this occasion. He has touched on a great many points which are of the utmost interest to the members of this Chamber and the community at large. I will not follow him through his long address, but I think I will be echoing the feeling of the members when I say we all agree in the note of warning he gave us to abstain from undue inflation, and to avoid in periods of the inflation mistaking the shadow for the substance. I am afraid this has been characterised by quirkiness, and although the volume of business has been on the whole satisfactory, the margin of profit has been very much lower than during the previous year, and some of our outlying markets have been interfered with owing to importations of refined sugar from Europe, which had not previously been attempted, except on a very small scale. I am pleased to be able to say, however, that the business of the Company continues in a sound condition, and although necessarily subject to fluctuations from time to time, the prospects in the long run are, so far as can be seen, satisfactory. The shareholders will no doubt be glad to hear that the extension of the Refinery at East Point, undertaken at the beginning of last year, is giving results fully equal to what was anticipated. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be put.

There being no questions the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, as submitted.

Mr. Ryrie seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Mr. William Legge proposed that Messrs. J. J. Keswick, St. C. Michaelson, E. R. Bellis, F. A. Gaskell, R. A. Gubbay, C. S. Taylor, F. Henderson, R. Lyall, W. Legge, G. T. Veitch (Secretary), and others.

AUDITORS.

Upon the motion of Mr. G. H. Gaskell,

seconded by Mr. Taylor, Messrs. F. Henderson and T. Arnold were re-elected auditors for the current year.

An announcement by the Chairman to the effect that dividend warrants will be ready on Monday brought the proceedings to a close.

The proposition was carried amidst loud applause.

vinegar to the thirsty. Yes, Hongkong was always high-toned—in its own warped but lofty estimation, and it is exceedingly amusing to the honest and the cynical alike, after having heard so much of the transcendent desires and aspirations of the members of this community, to compare the financial successes of various "shows" that from time to time visit the Island. And the result—well in a nutshell it is this: to draw paying houses, bring leg, and the bigger they are the better; the same stands good as regards numbers,—the more the merrier. So after all it is not such a surprise that genuine art, as in Madame Patey's case, has found itself practically stranded here, but it is nevertheless a pity and a decided reflection upon Hongkong musical culture.

However, to proceed with last night's performance: the programme was as usual well arranged and despite the disheartening surroundings the *artistes* were, if possible, heard to greater advantage than on any previous occasion, notably Miss Rossow, who, having chosen songs the music and words of which she thoroughly understood, was quite at her best. The performance opened with the usual piano forte solo by Mr. Hermann Morris. The effort was not exactly a brilliant one, but considering the instrument the piece was at least accurately played. In the "Grand vocal value" song Miss Rossow was heard to great advantage, the purity and sweetness of her voice never having been more in evidence. Mr. Patey next appeared in the aria "Non più Andrai," and we thought received but scant recognition from the audience for his accurate and able rendering of the music. The flute solo "Capriccio" by Mr. Lemmon, was a performance of the highest artistic merit, and, as such was fully appreciated. It must be exceedingly gratifying to Madame Patey to find that although her audiences are small, they are enthusiastically appreciative, and it was some minutes before the fair *artistes* would be listened to when she came on to sing Gounod's aria "Quando a t'letta," a romance from "Faust." That Madame gave full expression to the music and the pathos of this rather mournful composition was proved by its reception, but although the audience strove long and persistently for an *encore* none was forthcoming. "Who will buy my roses red?" was Miss Rossow's next venture and it is but a scant compliment to say it was well sung. Upon this occasion "Oliver" would not be denied, and for an *encore* she favored the house with "It was a dream" in her best style. A flute solo "Rustic Dances" by Mr. Lemmon, very fittingly brought the first part of the programme to a close. In the second part Madame Patey's first appearance was to sing "Rocked in the cradle of the deep" and needless to say she sang it as the song has never been sung in the East before, but was in the rendering of the *encore*, "The Laird O'Copen," which followed, with all its quaintness of expression and fund of humour, that Madame Patey proved how high her art is, and how far she excels all other ballad singers of the day. The flute solo in two parts "Romance" and "Tarentelle," by Mr. Lemmon, was so enthusiastically received that gentleman had—most obligingly on his part, and rather rough on that of the audience—to respond. Macfarren's song, "The beating of my own heart" and the *encore*, "Kate O'Shea," which of course had to follow, were exceedingly well rendered by Miss Rossow. "Father O'Flynn," another good performance on Mr. Patey's part, was followed by "The Minstrel Boy," in the singing of which Madame "fetched" the audience so, that she had to return to restore peace with the "Ballif's daughter," another simple song into which such an infinite amount of feeling and variety expression was put, as to render it a history. One of the best concerts ever given within the walls of the City Hall was brought to a close by Miss Rossow and Mr. Patey singing the duet "La ci darem la mano" from "Don Giovanni," which was all the more enjoyed by the audience seeing the humorous understanding that apparently existed between the singers.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE "NANZING" AND THE NAVAL AUTHORITIES.

To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph." DEAR SIR.—I must again ask you for space in your columns to call attention to the ship-shod way in which Naval affairs are conducted in these seas.

While the scandalous delay on the part of the Naval authorities in despatching a gunboat to search for and bring to justice the gang that pirated the *Nanzing* in December last (there was a delay on that occasion of fully 22 hours) is still fresh in our memory, your "Extra" to-day conveys news of another disgraceful delay. It reports that the Dock Company's tug-boat *Pilot Fish* left Hongkong to render assistance to the passengers of the stranded steamer *Nanzing* at 11 o'clock last night, and that the British gunboat *Peacock* started for the same destination at *day-light* to-day. Thus it is clear that it took the Naval authorities fully six hours longer to get off to a stranded British steamer than it took the Dock Company's tug-boat which, it is well known, is not continually lying at the buoy with steam up ready for any emergency. The *Pilot Fish*, however, has always a sufficient quantity of coal in her bunkers to last steam without the least delay. Of course I don't assert that there was not a single gunboat in the harbour ready to proceed to sea at an hour's notice (as they should be), but that, nevertheless, looks a probability.

Further comment on this incident is unnecessary at the present juncture; suffice it to say that the apathy and indifference of the Naval authorities on this Station is fast bringing our flag in Eastern seas into mortal contempt.

Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 21st March, 1891.

[Our correspondent's strictures may be fully justified and then again they may not—and probably are not. The *Nanzing* scandal was indeed disgraceful to the then Head of the Government (Mr. F. Fleming) and to Commodore Churchill; but in the *Nanzing* affair it appears to us that the Naval authorities acted with commendable promptitude. Of course we do not know for certain, but the probability is that the Commodore did not receive information of the standing of the *Nanzing* until very late last night, and it is therefore hard to see how the *Peacock* could reasonably have been expected to get away earlier than this morning at *day-light*. The illustration of the *Pilot Fish* is hardly to the point; she is a tug-boat plying for hire and is available for emergencies at any and all hours of the day and night.—Ed., *H.K. Telegraph*.]

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HONGKONG HOTEL.

To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph." SIR.—I quite agree with Mr. Gaskell, for I am of the opinion that for such a large hotel there is not another extant which is so badly managed as the Hongkong Hotel. In the first place the "boys" at the bar are anything but as obliging as they might be, and as patrons of the Hotel have a full right to expect; and a general

clearance in this department would be appreciated by the customers. As for the Rotisserie—the universal complaint is that, after spending seventy or eighty cents there, one goes away as empty as one went in. The bill of fare is a "miserly," and this should not be the case where meat, poultry and game are all so cheap. As a matter of fact the usual orders of the day are chops and steaks and steaks and chops, mixed up in about ten different ways, and a lot of cold stuff from the Hotel, which of course may or may not be the proper way of utilizing the surplus. This is the way Mr. Tucker ran the Adelphi Sheds in Liverpool—but I am forgetting we are now in Hongkong.

Yours truly,

GROWLER.

Hongkong, 21st March, 1891.

[We publish "Growler's" complaint for what it may be worth, but there are statements in his communication that exception should be taken to, viz.: the conduct of the "boys" behind the bar, and his having failed to extract his eighty cents' worth from the Rotisserie. The first is in our opinion unfair, and the latter—well, does not evince the possession of any great amount of suspicion on "Growler's" part.—Ed., *H.K. Telegraph*.]

A WARNING TO HOTEL AND STORE-KEEPERS.

To the Editor of the "Hongkong Telegraph." SIR.—I consider it my duty to warn hotel proprietors, store-keepers and others, against a young man named George Bling, who is travelling about the Coast obtaining credit under the false representation that his father, resident in Singapore, will pay his debts.

The United States Consul-General at this port, acting on the representations of the said George Bling, sent down to the latter's father in Singapore the account due to this Hotel. It has been returned, with a letter stating that he had no funds belonging to Mr. George Bling, and as that person was of age he would not be responsible for his debts.

Yours truly,

F. E. RELLY,

Proprietor, Central Hotel

Shanghai, 9th March, 1891.

[We regret to say that Mr. George Bling had us on the soft side for \$10 on the same day a few hours before Mr. Relly's letter reached us. "Twas ever thus, etc. Virtue is (generally) its own reward, and we sadly fear that nothing else will be forthcoming in *re* this journalist under a cloud.—Ed., *H.K. Telegraph*.]

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites acts both as food and medicine. It not only gives flesh and strength by virtue of its own nutritious properties, but creates an appetite for food that builds up the wasted body. Read the following:—"Scott's Emulsion is in my opinion an excellent, and valuable compound. I have given it to consumptive patients and have been delighted with the results obtained. It is pleasant to the taste and can be borne by the most sensitive stomach."—E. A. RODAY, M.D., Butter-Knowle, Darlington. Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. WATSON & Co. (Ltd.), agents in Hongkong and China.—[Advt., *H.K. Telegraph*.]

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